

American Republics Unite To Halt Spread of Communism in Western Hemisphere

The Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Serving as Organ of Consultation in Application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, was held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, January 22-31. The meeting was convoked by a resolution of the Council of the Organization of American States on December 4, 1961, to "consider the threats to the peace and to the political independence of the American states that might arise from the intervention of extracontinental powers directed toward breaking American solidarity."

Following are statements made by Secretary Rusk upon his departure for the meeting and at the sessions of January 25 and 31, together with texts of the nine resolutions adopted on January 31 and explanatory statements by several delegations.

DEPARTURE STATEMENT, JANUARY 20

Press release 45 dated January 20

The Eighth Meeting of Consultation of the American Foreign Ministers, which will begin on Monday in Punta del Este, Uruguay, is of paramount importance to the Organization of American States, in fact to the entire inter-American system.

Meeting at the request of the Government of Colombia, the ministers will be seeking agreement on measures appropriate to the present situation: that is, one in which Cuba, a member government of the Organization of American States, has made itself an accomplice to the Communist conspiracy dedicated to the overthrow of the representative governments of the hemisphere.

I am confident that the foreign ministers, recognizing the danger which this situation presents to our free societies and the collective security of the hemisphere, will find within the inter-American system the most effective possible means for the protection and strengthening of the principles upon which this system was founded.

STATEMENT OF JANUARY 25

Press release 55 dated January 25

It is a very great personal pleasure for me to be here for my first meeting with my colleagues

of the Americas. The fact that I find among them a number of old friends enhances that pleasure.

I join my colleagues in expressing our deep appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for the warm hospitality which we are enjoying in this lovely place and for all the arrangements which were made on relatively short notice to make this meeting possible. Secretary of State Stettinius once said that there might not have been a Charter of the United Nations had it not been for the weather and charm of San Francisco. I am confident that Punta del Este is making its own special contribution to the unity, strength, and progress of the inter-American system.

For the second time in 6 months the nations of the Americas meet here in pursuit of their common goal—social progress and economic growth within a community of free and independent nations. But this time we come to take measures to safeguard that freedom and independence so that in the future we may devote all our efforts to social progress and economic growth.

We are assembled again on the eastern shore of a vast continent. Across this continent millions of our people are struggling to throw off the bonds of hunger, poverty, and ignorance—to affirm the hope of a better life for themselves and their children. Last August we joined in a historic document, the Charter of Punta del Este, setting forth the goals, the machinery, and the commitments